

Navigating the Labyrinth: **A Clerk's Guide to the Legislative Process**

Norma Houston
2014 Municipal & County Administration

Today We'll Discuss

- The Institution
- The People Who Serve
- Sessions
- How Laws Are Made
- Local Bills
- Navigating the Legislature



THE INSTITUTION



Civics 101



Who Are These Legislative Leaders?



What Do You Think?



How many legislators serve in the General Assembly?

1. 50
2. 100
3. 120
4. 170

What Do You Think?



What is a legislator's annual salary?

1. \$14,000
2. \$50,000
3. \$75,000
4. \$100,000

Bi-Cameral Structure



	Senate	House
Members	50	120
Presiding Officer	Lt. Governor	Speaker
Elected Chamber Leader	President <i>Pro Tempore</i>	Speaker
Term	2 years	2 years
Annual Salary	\$13,951	\$13,951
District Population	190,710	79,462

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS



What Do You Think?



What happens to most bills?

1. They pass
2. They are voted down
3. They aren't voted on at all

What Do You Think?



The NC Constitution limits the length of a legislative session to:

1. 6 months
2. 9 months
3. No limit

Three Types of Sessions

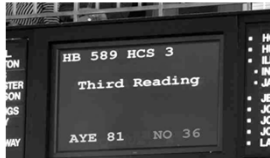
1. Regular Session

- "Long Session" - 1st Year of biennium in odd-numbered year
- "Short Session" - 2nd Year of biennium in even-numbered year

2. Veto Session

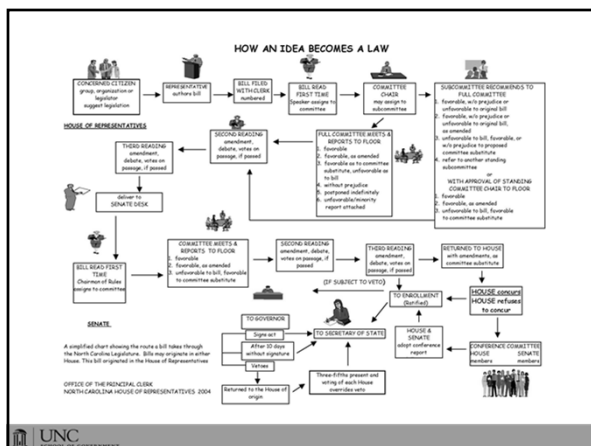
3. Extra Session ("Special Session")

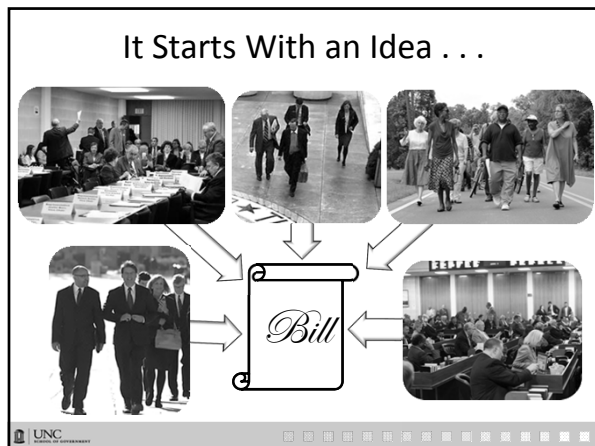


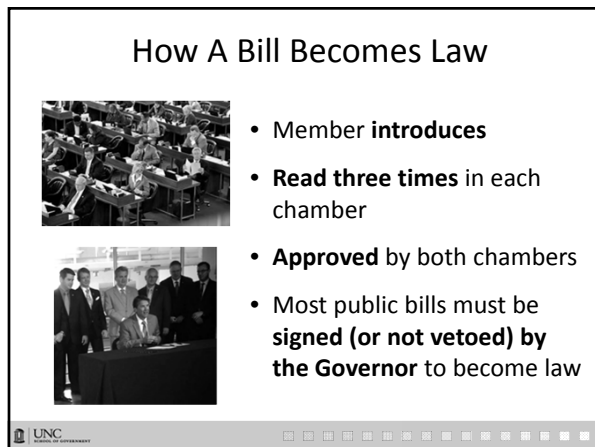
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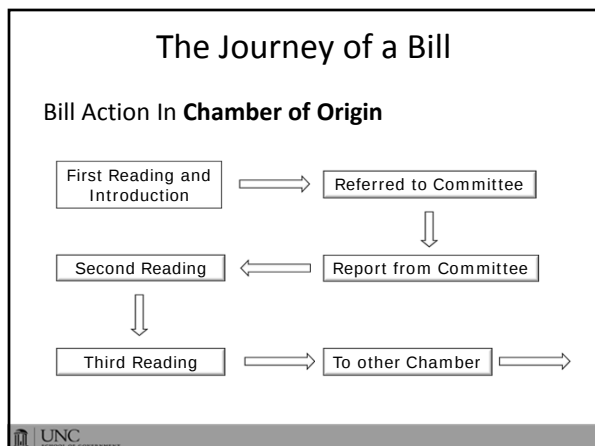


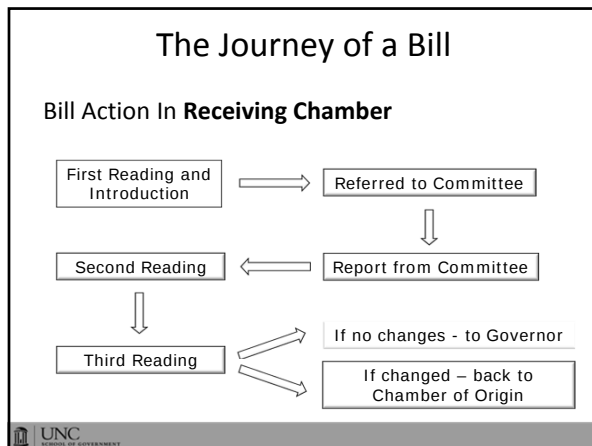
UNC
SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

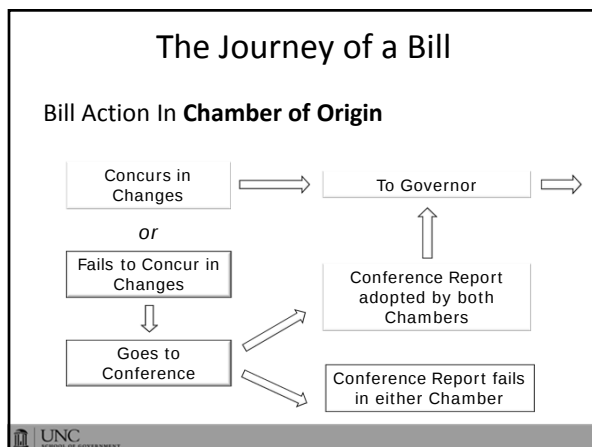


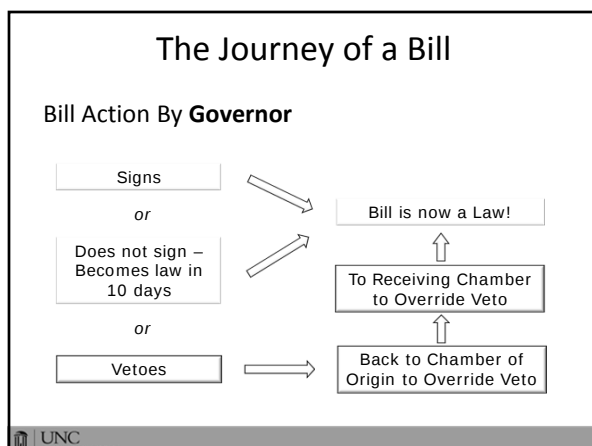












CONGRATULATIONS!



What Do You Think?



Can the Governor veto any bill?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Bills Not Subject to Veto

- **Local bills** (applying in fewer than 15 counties)
- Resolutions
- State and federal constitutional amendments
- Bills *only* making appointments by General Assembly
- Legislative or congressional redistricting

[illegible]

What is a Local Bill?

- Fewer than **15 counties** (for rules and veto)
- Sometimes grants special authority or exception to a law: *"This act applies to/does not apply to Moore County"*
- Geographic application less than statewide (for constitutional restrictions)
- Typically (but not always) is not codified
- Most tax, debt, and annexation bills must be read on separate days in each chamber ("roll call")

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 1999

SESSION LAW 1999-34
SENATE BILL 299

AN ACT TO INCREASE THE FORCE ACCOUNT LIMIT FOR CABARRUS COUNTY AND THE CITY OF CONCORD

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 143-133 reads as revised:

"§ 143-133. Limitation of application of Article.

Except for the provisions of G.S. 143-129 requiring bids for the purchase of apparatus, supplies, materials or equipment, this Article shall not apply to construction or repair work undertaken by the State or by subdivisions of the State of North Carolina (i) when the work is performed by duly elected officers or agents using force account qualified labor on the permanent payroll of the agency concerned and (ii) when either the total cost of the project, including without limitation all direct and indirect costs of labor, services, materials, supplies and equipment, does not exceed one hundred thousand five hundred dollars (\$100,500) or the total cost of labor on the project does not exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). This force account work shall be subject to the approval of the Director of the Budget in the case of State agencies, of the responsible commission, council, or board in the case of subdivisions of the State. Complete and accurate records of the entire cost of such work, including without limitation, all direct and indirect costs of labor, services, materials, supplies and equipment performed and furnished in the prosecution and completion thereof, shall be maintained by such agency, commission, council or board for the inspection by the general public. Construction or repair work undertaken pursuant to this section shall not be divided for the purposes of evading the provisions of this Article."

Section 2. This act applies only to Cabarrus County and the City of Concord.

Section 3. This act is effective when it becomes law and expires June 30, 2000.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this 10th day of May, 1999.

2000

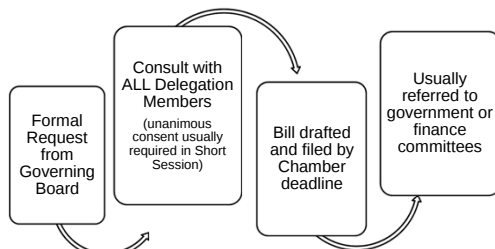
Session law citation & bill #

Title

Amended statute (codified)

Uncodified application of act and sunset provision

Process for Local Bills



What Local Bills Can't Do

N.C. Constitution Art. II, Sec. 24

- Health, sanitation, and nuisance abatement
- Changing the names of municipalities
- Opening or closing specific streets
- Ferries, bridges, and non-navigable streams
- Relating to cemeteries
- Setting the pay of jurors
- Drawing the lines of school districts
- Refunding taxes or remitting fines, penalties, and forfeitures
- Regulating labor, trade, mining, or manufacturing
- Extending the time for tax collection
- Ad valorem taxes
- Giving effect to informal wills and deeds
- Granting a divorces or legitimizing bastards
- Changing names or restoring citizenship rights to felons

NAVIGATING THE PROCESS



Know The Place and The People

- Be **aware** of deadlines, process, rules, and ethics laws
- Get to **know** . . .
 - Leadership, chairmen and members of relevant committees
 - Legislative assistants
 - Legislative staff, especially those with key committees
 - Chamber officers and their staff
- **Respect** their time!



Effective Communication

The “3 C’s”:

- **Clear** - Be specific in making your request
- **Concise** - Provide short written materials
- **Consistent** - Avoid changing and conflicting messages



Lobbying and Ethics

- Lawful and ethical lobbying is part of legislative process
- Local officials and employees **are not** lobbyists when lobbying in connection with official duties
- Contractors advocating on behalf of local governments **are** lobbyists and the local government client is a **lobbyist principal**

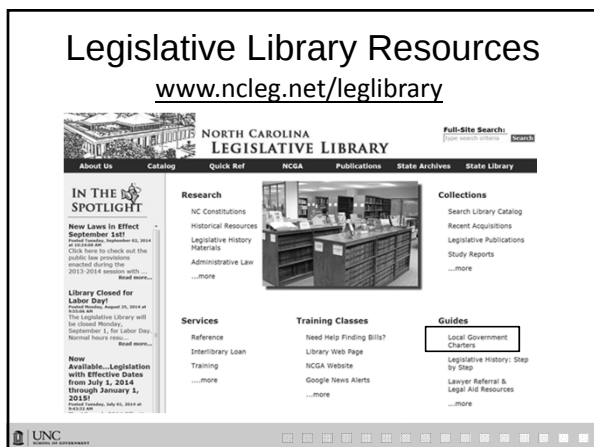


Lobbying and Ethics

- Local government employee whose primary job duties including lobbying the legislature **is** a local government liaison
- Lobbyists, Lobbyist Principals, and Local Government Liaisons must **register and report** lobbying expenses; **cannot give gifts**









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News Alert

Aug 1, 2013:

Subscribers only: Please see the Administrative page for a document containing a list of the 2013 session laws, bills pending with the governor as of this date, and all bill summaries associated with each.

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Thank You!



The Regular Session reconvened on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at 9:00a.m.

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